

1902.

For

WILLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Wellington Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

The following is my Report for the year 1902 :—

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Estimated Population, 1902.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Rate.	Infant Mortality.
Willington ...	5182	38·59	16·59	1·35	145
Stockley ...	2715	30·93	12·51	1·10	95
Whole District	7897	35·96	15·19	1·26	130

DEATHS.

During 1902 there were 86 deaths registered as having occurred in Wellington, and 34 in Stockley, making for the former a rate per thousand of the population of 16·59, and for the latter 12·51 ; the rate for the whole district was 15·19. There were 5 deaths which occurred out of the district among persons who belonged to it, and 3 deaths in the district of persons not belonging to it, thus making a rate of 15·44. This is below the County Rate, which is 16·6, and is 4·21 per thousand less than the previous year.

Of the deaths which occurred outside of the district, 3 were in the Workhouse, Durham, 1 in the County Hospital, and 1 in the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Tindale Crescent, Bishop Auckland.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

In Willington there were 7 deaths from infectious disease. In children under 5 years of age there were :—Membranous Croup 1, Typhoid Fever 1, and Diarrhœa 1. In persons above 5 there were :—Scarlatina 1, Diphtheria 1, and Typhoid Fever 2. This makes a rate of 1·35 per thousand.

In Stockley there were 3 deaths, viz. :—Under 5 years—Whooping Cough 1. Above 5 years :—Scarlatina 1, and Diarrhœa 1, making a rate of 1·10.

The rate for the whole district was 1·26 per thousand persons which is 4·69 less than that for 1901, and ·42 below the County Rate.

INFANT MORTALITY.

There were 29 deaths in children under 1 year of age in Willington, representing 14·5 per cent. of the births registered during the year.

In Stockley there were 8 deaths, making 9·5 per cent., and in the whole district 37 deaths, or 13·5 per cent. This is 3·7 per cent. less than the previous year, and 10·1 per cent. less than 1900, and is also below the County Rate.

HEART DISEASE.

This caused 5 deaths in Willington and 4 in Stockley, representing a rate of 1·13 per thousand for the whole district.

PHTHISIS.

11 deaths took place from Consumption, 8 in Willington, representing a rate of 1·54, and 3 in Stockley, representing a rate of 1·10 per thousand, the rate for the whole district being equal to 1·39, as compared with ·38 and 1·14 for 1901 and 1900 respectively. The County Rate was 1·06.

BRONCHITIS.

From this there were 10 deaths, 6 under and 4 over 5 years of age, and all occurring in Willington, representing a rate of 1·26 per thousand, as compared with 1·01 for the previous year. The County Rate was 1·41 per thousand.

PNEUMONIA.

This caused 8 deaths, 6 in Willington, making a rate of 1·15, and 2 in Stockley, with a rate of ·73 ; rate for the whole district being 1·01, or ·13 more than the previous year.

Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs caused 4 deaths in Willington, 2 under and 2 over 5 years of age, making a rate of ·50 per thousand.

BIRTHS.

In Willington there were 106 males and 94 females registered, making a total of 200.

In Stockley there were 40 males and 44 females, making a total of 84.

This makes for the whole district 284, or 20 short of the preceding year, and 1 less than the births for 1900. The rate being 35·96 for the whole district, is therefore just slightly over that of the County Rate, which is 35·6.

INQUESTS.

Causes of death as recorded at Coroner's Inquests :—

Heart Disease ...	...	...	...	1
Fall of Stone in Coal Mine...		...	...	3
Suicide ...	...	...	...	1

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1902 and previous Years.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		TOTAL DEATHS REGISTERED IN THE DISTRICT.				Total Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non- residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	NETT DEATHS AT ALL AGES BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.	
				Under 1 Year of Age		At all Ages.					Number.	Rate.*
		Number	Rate.*	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate.*					
I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1892 .	7812	299	38·27	48	160	133	17·02	...	...	...	...	...
1893 ...	7820	285	36·44	63	221	166	21·22	...	...	...	...	...
1894 ...	7828	280	35·76	38	135	131	16·60	...	...	...	...	...
1895 ...	7837	324	41·34	73	225	158	20·16	...	...	1	159	20·28
1896 ...	7845	314	40·02	46	146	154	19·63	...	...	4	158	20·14
1897 ...	7853	281	35·78	34	121	133	16·93	...	...	3	136	17·31
1898 ..	7862	306	38·92	58	189	132	16·78	...	...	3	135	17·17
1899 ...	7870	263	33·41	44	167	130	16·51	...	...	4	134	17·02
1900 ...	7878	285	36·17	66	231	161	20·43	...	...	4	165	20·94
1901 ..	7887	304	38·54	51	167	152	19·27	...	...	8	160	20·28
Averages for Years 1892 to 1901. }	7849	294	37·46	52	176	145	18·45	...	...	3·8	149	18·33
1902 ...	7897	284	35·96	37	130	120	15·19	...	...	5	125	15·82

* Rates in COLUMNS 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Total population at all ages	7,887	} At Census of 1901.
No. of inhabited houses	...	...	1,607
Average number of persons per house	...	...	4·9

Area of District in acres (exclusive of area covered by water) ... 3795·138

Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District :—None.

Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District :—Durham Union Workhouse ; Durham County Hospital.

Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District :—County Asylum, Sedgefield.

TABLE II.

Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1902 and previous years.

Names of Localities.	WHOLE DISTRICT.				WILLINGTON.				STOCKLEY.			
YEAR.	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each Year.	Births registered.	Deaths at all Ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
	<i>a.</i>	<i>b.</i>	<i>c.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>a.</i>	<i>b.</i>	<i>c.</i>	<i>d.</i>	<i>a.</i>	<i>b.</i>	<i>c.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1892 ..	7812	299	133	48	5114	198	101	34	2698	101	32	14
1893 ..	7820	285	166	63	5120	178	111	38	2700	107	55	25
1894 ..	7828	280	131	38	5127	180	94	24	2701	100	37	14
1895 ..	7837	324	159	73	5134	220	107	43	2703	104	52	30
1896 ..	7845	314	158	46	5141	205	104	37	2704	109	54	9
1897 ..	7853	281	136	34	5147	185	95	21	2706	92	41	13
1898 ..	7862	306	135	58	5155	207	93	39	2707	99	42	19
1899 ..	7870	263	134	44	5161	177	82	24	2709	86	52	20
1900 ..	7878	285	165	66	5168	197	114	47	2710	88	51	19
1901 ..	7887	304	160	51	5175	211	103	34	2712	93	57	17
Averages of Years 1892 to 1901. }	7849	294	147	52	5144	195	100	34	2705	97	47	18
1902 ..	7897	284	125	37	5182	200	91	29	2715	84	34	8

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the Year 1902.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	CASES NOTIFIED IN WHOLE DISTRICT.						TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH LOCALITY.		NO. OF CASES REMOVED TO EACH HOSPITAL FROM EACH LOCALITY.	
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.					Willington.	Stockley.	Willington.	Stockley.
		Under 1	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 65.				
Small-pox	...	2	...	...	...	2	2	...	2	
Diphtheria	...	4	...	4	...	...	4	...	1	
Membranous Croup	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Erysipelas	...	8	...	2	...	2	6	2	...	None.
Scarlet Fever	...	29	1	11	2	1	24	5	...	
Enteric Fever	...	11	..	1	1	4	8	3	2	
Puerperal Fever...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	
TOTALS	...	56	1	13	4	9	45	11	5	

TABLE IV.

Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1902.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	DEATHS IN WHOLE DISTRICT AT SUBJOINED AGES.							Death in Localities (At all Ages.)		DEATHS IN PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.
	All ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Willington.	Stockley.	
Scarlet Fever	2	..	..	1	..	1	..	1	1	..
Whooping-cough	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..
Diphtheria and membranous croup..	2	1	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..
Enteric Fever	3	..	1	2	..	..	..	3	..	..
Epidemic influenza	4	..	..	..	..	3	1	3	1	..
Diarrhoea	2	..	1	..	..	..	1	1	1	..
Enteritis	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Puerperal Fever	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..
Phthisis	11	..	..	1	2	8	..	8	3	..
Other tubercular diseases ..	8	2	1	2	2	1	..	5	3	..
Cancer, malignant disease ..	2	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	..
Bronchitis	10	1	5	..	..	1	3	10	..	..
Pneumonia	8	4	2	2	..	..	..	6	2	..
Other diseases of Respiratory Organs	4	..	2	..	..	2	..	4	..	..
Premature Birth	7	7	..	..	..	..	..	5	2	..
Heart diseases	10	1	..	..	..	7	2	6	4	..
Accidents	3	..	..	..	..	3	..	1	2	..
Suicides	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
All other causes	45	21	3	..	1	2	18	32	13	..
All causes	125	39	15	9	6	31	25	91	34	..

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The notification of Infectious Diseases has been in operation in this district since 1891.

An Infectious Diseases Hospital was erected in 1900, at Tindale Crescent, near Bishop Auckland, about 7 miles from Willington, this being one of the two hospitals to be built by the Auckland, Shildon, and Willington Joint Hospital Board.

Owing to the great distance, only 5 cases of infectious disease were removed to that institution from this district during the year. Four were discharged cured, and one died.

Plans have been prepared, and the site is fixed for the erection of the second hospital of the Authority at Job's Hill, and it is expected that the building will be fast approaching completion at the close of the present year. The position of hospital No. 2 will be very convenient for this district, and we may hope to be able to remove the first infectious cases occurring, and thus prevent a general spread of infection.

DIPHTHERIA AND MEMBRANOUS CROUP.

4 cases of Diphtheria occurred in Willington, all above 5 years of age. One of these was fatal. It was traced to defective drains about the North Eastern Railway Station House, and these were remedied by the Company on representation being made to them. One case of Membranous Croup occurred under 5 years, also in Willington, and this was fatal.

The Council supplies Diphtheritic Serum gratuitously through the M.O.H. to medical practitioners who desire to employ it in cases occurring in the district.

INFLUENZA.

This was more or less prevalent from the commencement of the year, and continued so until May, when it began to abate. Cases were not observed during the months of July, August, and September, but it re-appeared in October, and was in a state of prevalence to the end of the year. It was mainly of a mild type, there being only 4 deaths attributed to it.

MEASLES.

The district was practically free from Measles, only a few cases occurring in the months of July and August of a mild nature, and there were no deaths.

TYPHOID FEVER.

There were 11 cases of Typhoid Fever, 8 in Willington and 3 in Stockley. Three deaths occurred from it, making a death-rate of '38 per thousand as compared with '19 for the previous year. These cases occurred in the months of January, February, March, April, October, and November.

The polluted soil about the insanitary midden-privies is evidently the cause of most of these cases occurring.

ERYSIPELAS.

8 cases occurred, 6 in Willington, 2 in Stockley. There were no deaths.

SCARLET FEVER.

There were 24 cases in Willington, 10 under 5 years, and 14 over 5 years with 1 death, representing a rate of '19 per thousand.

In Stockley there were 5 cases, 2 under and 3 over 5 years of age, with 1 death, making a rate of '36 ; rate for the whole district equals '25 which is '63 less than the preceding year.

No cases were traced to the milk supply.

Disinfectants were used and precautions taken to prevent a spread. Parents would not allow their children to be taken to the Infectious Hospital.

DIARRHŒA.

The district was virtually free from this disease which might be owing to there not having been any undue heat of summer. There were

but 2 deaths, 1 over 5 and 1 under 5 years, making a rate of '25 per thousand as compared with 2'75 the previous year.

WHOOPING COUGH

was imported into the district in September and continued in a state of prevalence for the rest of the year. It caused 1 death, representing a rate of '12 per thousand.

SMALL-POX.

A case of Small-pox was discovered in March in a member of the Salvation Army, and living in one of the back-to-back houses in Mill Street. This appeared to have been contracted through the receipt of a letter from a patient in the Backwood Small-pox Hospital, as diligent questioning failed to elicit any information of the patient having ever been in an infected area. Pending the erection of a temporary hospital, the house and yard were barricaded and all means taken to prevent the infection spreading. The patient was removed to a tent hospital near Byers Green, under the Infectious Joint Hospital Board, and the premises thoroughly disinfected and cleaned. All persons known to have been in contact were immediately vaccinated, as also those living in the immediate neighbourhood, but a person living in the front portion of this back-to-back house, and who refused to be vaccinated, was next taken ill with the disease, and was straightway removed to the temporary hospital, and the house thoroughly fumigated and cleaned. Both cases recovered.

DISINFECTION.

The Council provides disinfectants gratuitously to infected houses.

Stoving has been done in 19 instances, and three lots of bedding destroyed, whilst other bedding has been sent to the Infectious Hospital to be disinfected by steam.

VACCINATION.

Only a very small number of the children born in the district remain unvaccinated.

GENERAL SANITATION.

(*a.*) Character of the District.—The district of Willington is composed of the village of Willington, together with the Brancepeth Colliery Rows, and has a population of 5,182, and an area of 1551·759 acres

The district of Stockley comprises Oakenshaw and Page Bank Collieries, and has a population of 2,715, and an acreage of 2342·379.

The whole district has a natural drainage, owing to the gradual slope of the land towards the River Wear.

(*b.*) Pollution of Streams.—The district has the following streams running through it :—Willington burn, Old Hall beck, and Page Bank beck, into all of which sewage is discharged and carried into the River Wear. At Page Bank Colliery the sewage discharges directly into the river.

With a view to the purification of the sewage at Willington before its passage into the river, it has been decided to construct Sewerage Works on the Stoddart System, as laid down at Horfield, Bristol, and plans are being prepared by an expert, and it is expected that the work will very shortly be commenced with.

CHIEF INDUSTRIES AND THEIR EFFECTS ON THE HEALTH OF THE PERSONS EMPLOYED.

The trade in the district comprises :—Coal Mining, Coke-making, and the Manufacture of Bricks, Pipes, &c.

The mines are well ventilated and free from gas. Accidents which occur are mainly from fall of stone. The men and boys are, in general, of a healthy state of body, and do not suffer from any special form of disease arising from their employment.

SMOKE NUISANCES AND OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Coke is manufactured largely in the district, but as the waste heat is conveyed from the ovens to chimneys of great height no nuisance arises from this.

BURIAL GROUND.

A Cemetery is situated in a central position for the district, and is sufficient for immediate future requirements.

DISPOSAL OF EXCREMENT.

There are a number of W.C.'s, and all recently built houses have either W.C.'s or have ash-closets constructed, but the general accommodation in the district is the ordinary privy and ashpit, which are generally very large and defective in construction, and often in bad repair. In a large number of these, owing to there being no roof and the rain getting in, the contractors have made a rule of knocking out a brick and allowing the liquid contents to drain away and thus foul the surrounding soil which, in all probability, is the main cause of Enteric Fever and Diarrhœa.

The contents are carted away, partly to the Council's dépôt at Low Willington, partly to the tip belonging to the colliery owners, and partly to the fields for the purpose of manuring.

In Stockley the colliery owners provide their own tips.

Owing to there being no other means of access to the back yards of many houses the contents of the midden-privies have to be wheeled through the passages, and are deposited in the streets. This causes a nuisance, and by fouling the earth I fear it sometimes accounts for cases of Enteric Fever and Diarrhœa, and ought to be remedied by substituting for the midden-privies W.C.'s and pails or buckets for the dry refuse.

SCAVENGING.

The whole district is scavenged by the Council by contract. With few exceptions this has been done very well, and where defects have existed they have quickly been remedied.

HOUSE DRAINAGE.

The drains are made with sanitary pipes and are all now trapped. Where drains have been found defective they have been attended to.

COMMON LODGING-HOUSES.

There are none now in the district.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There are 6 registered slaughter-houses in Willington and Stockley, and all have been found in a sanitary condition.

DAIRIES AND MILK SUPPLY.

The bulk of the milk is supplied by farmers, but some of it is supplied by cow-keepers. The dairies have been inspected and found clean, and no disease has been traced to this source.

COW SHEDS.

These have been inspected, and except that most of them are of old construction, and ventilation bad in one instance, and a deficiency of light, and lime-washing not always attended to, there is nothing seriously to complain about. At the same time "top" ventilation in these buildings as against that near the heads of the animals would be an improvement. The latter consist of pipes which are generally blocked up to prevent a draught.

DWELLINGS OF THE WORKING CLASSES.

The majority of these are good, being roomy and well-lighted, built of bricks, and chiefly have two storeys. They obtain their ventilation in the ordinary way by doors, windows, and fire-places. There are some, however, which are composed of only one room and an attic, and are very badly lighted. Of these latter, 18 have, during the year, been improved by raising and making a good lofty and well-lighted upstairs-room. More of these require attention. Some are composed of two rooms on the ground floor, and some have in addition a very low attic, which is unceiled, and they are both damp and badly lighted.

Back-to-back houses exist in Mill Street, High Street, and Commercial Street, in Willington, and also at Page Bank.

Spouting generally is in fair order, but some requires attention.

I may mention here that the back streets are most objectionable, and in places highly dangerous. They ought to be properly made and channelled, and taken over by the Council.

INSPECTIONS AND RESULTS.

Inspections during the year have been made, and 89 informal and 2 formal notices have been served. Most of the defects for which these notices were served have been remedied.

DIRECTION OF THE WORK OF THE INSPECTOR OF NUISANCES.

The Inspector receives his instructions from the Council ; he also fulfils the duties of Surveyor.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Nil.

NEW BUILDINGS.

2 houses have been built in Hall Terrace and 1 in Lydia Street. The drainage is satisfactory.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Meat has always been found to be good.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

This is carried out by the Inspector to the County Council. No proceedings have, I believe, had to be taken in this district.

LIGHTING.

The district is lighted by gas, but Page Bank is lighted by means of oil lamps.

WATER SUPPLY.

There has been the usual supply of pure, soft water to the district from the Weardale and Shildon Water Company's Mains. No water is allowed for the flushing of drains, and this is much needed in the hot months of summer.

PRECAUTIONS AGAINST FIRE.

Fire occurred at the Albert Hotel, in High Street, and the Council's hose and reel, with the help of the hose and reel belonging to the Co-operative Store, were used, and resulted in the extinction of the fire before a great amount of damage was done.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

10 ash-closets have been substituted for privy-ashpits.

In Nelson Street the footpaths have been paved on both sides of the street, which is a great improvement.

A footpath of asphalt and flags, and channelling, have been made from the Cemetery, and extended the whole length of one side of the street in Low Willington and Commercial Street, and it is intended to continue this up the whole length of the town.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

Appended is a report bearing on this Act.—

Report of the Medical Officer of Health on the Administration of the Act in the Urban Sanitary District of Willington during the year 1902.

(A) Classification and Inspection.

Total Number of Workshops in the District, as per Register :—10, including 9 Tenement Workshops and 1 Retail Bakehouse.

Total Number of visits of inspection made during 1902 (a) by M.O.H. :—2 ; (b) by Sanitary Inspector, 2.

Note as to the chief Workshop Industries in the District :—Dressmaking, Saddlery, and Bootmaking.

(B) SANITATION.

				WORKSHOPS.
Cleanliness —General condition	...	...	...	Good.
. Number of Notices served under P.H. Acts	...		...	None.
,, of Notices to cleanse under Sec. 2	...		...	„
Legal Proceedings	...	...	..	„
Air Space —General Condition	...	..	...	Good
Number of Notices to abate over-crowding	...		...	„
,, of Notices to affix card, Sec. 3 (4)	...		... 10	Verbal.
Legal Proceedings	...	...	...	None.
Ventilation —General Condition	..	...	...	Fair.
Number of Notices under P.H. Act	...		...	None.
Legal Proceedings	...	...	...	„

Means of Ventilation—Any action under the new powers of Sec. 7 :—Doors, Windows, and Fire Places.

(C) Additional Sanitation for “Retail Bakehouses.” Secs. 97 to 102.

Number of such premises in the District :—1.

Note as to their General Sanitary Condition :—Fair.

As to Limewashing, etc., s. 99 :—Notices served, 1 ; Defects remedied, 1.

Any proceedings under Sec. 98 as to retail Bakehouses sanitarily unfit :—None.

(Ca) Underground Bakehouses—Number of such premises in District :—None.

(G) General.

Number and nature of sanitary defects, reported to the Authority by H.M. Inspectors, during 1902 :—None.

Number of infringements reported by Sanitary Authority to H.M. Inspector (*e.g.*, s. 133) :—None.

General Observations—All places have been found in very fair condition.

R. E. BROWN, L.R.C.P., &c.

February 2nd, 1903.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. Midden-privies requiring much repairs should be re-placed by ash-closets, and all fouling of the soil in the vicinity of these buildings should be prevented.
2. The making of the back streets, and the taking over of the same by the Council.
3. The Steam Roller should be used not on part, but on the whole of the Council's roads.
4. Better light and ventilation for the Cow-byres.
5. The substitution in back yards of W.c's and pails or buckets where the midden contents have to be wheeled through passages into the street.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. E. BROWN, L.R.C.P.

February 22nd, 1903.

